

FISCAL NOTE

SB 2461 - HB 3194

March 1, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Revises the definition of *injury* and *personal injury* in the workers' compensation law to include psychological injuries and gradually occurring injuries. Removes the definition of *mental injury* in the workers' compensation law. Expands the current definition of injury to include gradually occurring injuries that arise out of and in the course and scope of employment, and revises the inclusion of mental injuries to include mental or psychological injuries that arise out of and in the course and scope of employment.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$200,000/Claims Award Fund

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

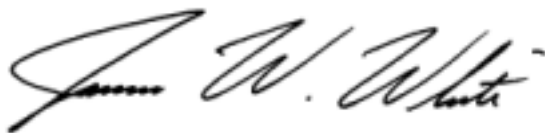
Estimate assumes:

- an increase in pay-outs from the Claims Award Fund, due to expansion of the current definition of mental injury.
- a potential increase in local government expenditures to the extent that claims filed by employees of local governments come under the provisions of the bill.

Note: During the past three fiscal years, the Division of Claims Administration received an average of 2 claims per year that were denied because they did not meet the current parameters in the definition of mental injury. If current parameters are removed from the definition and the Claims Award Fund pays two additional claims per year, there would be an increase in state expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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